Holmes, Oliver Wendell.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

"It is almost a matter of certainty that, all things considered light-houses have caused more wrecks than they have prevented."—Westminster Review.

Yes, here, "aloft its hoary forehead rears"
This "towering pride of twice a thousand years;"
The work of Grecian, Roman, Arab hands,
(Where Hunter, Sydenham wrought; where Louis stands)

Above the reefs that wreck the human race It sheds its beacon rays—to mark the place; From jagged rock and yawning quicksand-grave Gleaming to warn—but impotent to save!

Around this towering pile so proud and old,
The countless wrecks of hapless men behold,
Who, pressed by blinding storm and tossed by wave,
Fled to the light for HELP and found—a GRAVE!
Yet "the proud fabric in this morning's sun
Stands all unconscious of the mischief done."

No trusty pilot, though most sore bested,
Would this way turn, for aid, his vessel's head;
But, hauling off, and TAUTENING every brace,
Prefer the winds' and ocean's worst to face,
To sink, if must be, or, a hulk to swim;
But shun, at any risk, this light-house grim!

This boastful science of two thousand years
Which mocks men's hopes and doubles all their fears,
Traces their maladies with finger sure,
Shows now and why they DIE—but cannot CURE—
Who seek its portal, hoping CURE thereat
ARE "gulls and b" and deserve their fate!

Invington, N. Y., Ju

Box 1276

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"It is nimed a metter of newfrield that, all things considered."—"I'm bows bern bring made within that they have prevented."—"Wateringer States."

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dir. Y. M. Remourat